

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 05857 211343Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 SS-15 CPR-02 A-01 /038 W
-----011241 211350Z /64

P 202206Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8618

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 5857

ARA FOR BARNABY
NSC FOR PASTOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, CO
SUBJ: OFFICIAL US DELEGATION TO THE INAUGURATION OF THE
NEW COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH THE CHARGE AT A PRIVATE SOCIAL GATHERING ON JUNE 17, JULIO CESAR TURBAY, THE APPARENT PRESIDENT-ELECT, ENQUIRED AS TO THE COMPOSITION OF THE US DELEGATION TO THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION ON AUGUST 7.

2. THE CHARGE SAID THAT THIS WOULD DEPEND IN PART ON THE PREFERENCE OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ PRIOR TO HIS INAUGURATION IN 1974 HAD EXPRESSED THE DESIRE THAT SUCH DELEGATIONS BE COMPOSED OF AMBASSADORS AND DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL ACCREDITED TO COLOMBIA. TURBAY REPLIED THAT HE WOULD NOT WANT TO PROCEED IN THIS WAY BUT RATHER HOPED THAT DELEGATIONS WOULD BE COMPOSED OF IMPORTANT FIGURES FROM THE SENDING COUNTRIES. HE THEN ASKED WHETHER PRESIDENT CARTER MIGHT COME.

3. THE CHARGE SAID THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE PRESIDENT CARTER'S CROWDED SCHEDULE HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ATTEND ANY INAUGURATIONS OF CHIEFS OF STATE THUS FAR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 05857 211343Z

DURING HIS ADMINISTRATION AND THAT TURBAY, FROM HIS OWN OBSERVATIONS WHILE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, COULD EASILY UNDERSTAND HOW THE PRESIDENT'S MANY PRESSING RESPONSIBILITIES MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO UNDERTAKE TRIPS ABROAD. THE CONVERSATION THEN SWITCHED TO OTHER SUBJECTS.

4. RECOMMENDATION. US INTERESTS IN COLOMBIA WOULD BEST BE

SERVED BY A US DELEGATION TO TURBAY'S INAUGURATION, WHICH WOULD BE LED BY A TOP-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION. WE HAVE IN MIND, SPECIFICALLY, MRS. ROSALYNN CARTER OR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE. IF NEITHER IS AVAILABLE, THEN A SENIOR CABINET LEVEL OFFICER MIGHT BE SUITABLE. WE ARE LESS THEN ENTHUSIASTIC OVER THE LATTER ALTERNATIVE SINCE TURBAY IS UNDOUBTEDLY WELL AWARE THAT MRS. CARTER ATTENDED THE INAUGURATION OF COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT CARRAZO, AND HE WOULD BE CERTAIN TO FEEL DISADVANTAGED IF SOMEONE WHOM HE AND OTHER COLOMBIANS CONSIDER TO BE OF LESSER STATURE IN THE ADMINISTRATION WERE TO HEAD THE US DELEGATION.

5. THERE ARE STRONG JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE ATTENDANCE AT THE INAUGURATION OF A HIGH LEVEL US PERSONAGE. THE GOOD WILL OF THE NEW PRESIDENT WILL BE USEFUL IN OBTAINING THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF COOPERATION FOR PROGRAMS OF INTEREST TO THE USG. THE PRESENCE OF A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION WILL ALSO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE US TO EMPHASIZE ITS SUPPORT FOR ONE OF THE FEW REMAINING FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACIES IN THE REGION AND ONE WHICH HAS AN EXCELLENT HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. SUCH CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS ARE ONE OF THE FEW WAYS IN WHICH THE US CAN READILY DEMONSTRATE ITS PREFERENCE FOR DEMOCRACIES. THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO BY THE BOARD. WE ENVISAGE THAT USG PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD ACCOMPANY A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION TO THE INAUGURATION WOULD STRONGLY EMPHASIZE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BOGOTA 05857 211343Z

ITS PURPOSE OF SHOWING SUPPORT FOR COLOMBIAN DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.
JOHNSTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INAUGURATION, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES, PRESIDENT ELECT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BOGOTA05857
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780258-0994
Format: TEL
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780642/aaaabjvw.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0d63c785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2291160
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL US DELEGATION TO THE INAUGURATION OF THE NEW COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT
TAGS: PDIP, CO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0d63c785-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014